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**United States Senate**  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 9, 2003

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APR 16 2003

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary

Dear Chairman Powell:

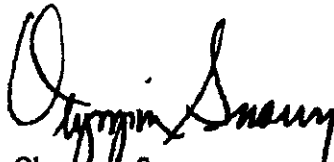
We note with disappointment your announcement that the FCC's revised media ownership rules will be released in final form June 2<sup>nd</sup> without any opportunity for the Congress or the public to review them beforehand. We believe it is virtually impossible to serve the public interest in this extremely important and highly complex proceeding without letting the public know about and comment on the changes you intend to make to these critical rules.

While the Commission and its staff have amassed a significant record of comments to date on current media ownership rules, the Commission has not put forth any specific changes it is planning.

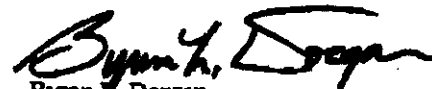
Dramatic changes in the structure of our media marketplace could have long-term consequences on the diversity of voices and free expression in our nation. Given the gravity of this proceeding, we are puzzled as to why the FCC would not insist on having a thorough discussion about any proposed changes before these would take effect. Openness in this process is the best path to ensure that Congress and the public support the agency's direction.

We again urge the Commission to provide full disclosure of any proposed changes before they are made final.

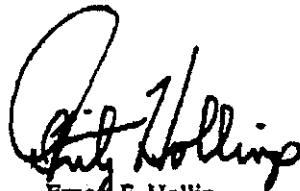
Sincerely,



Olympia J. Snowe  
United States Senator



Byron Dorgan  
United States Senator



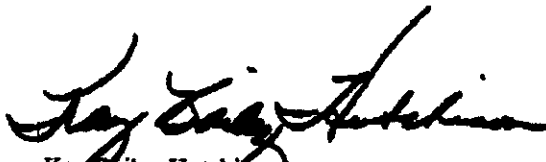
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Trent Lott  
United States Senator

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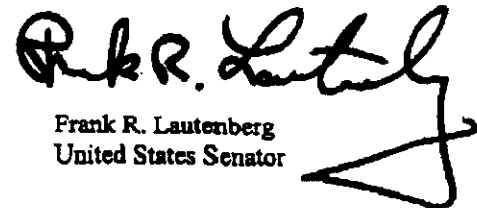
  
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